



BASIC TRAINING INFORMATION

B BATTERY, 1-31ST FIELD ARTILLERY

"BANDITS"



FROM THE COMMANDER

Dear Bandit Parents, Family Members, and Friends:

I am Captain Richard Miller, your Soldier's Battery Commander for Basic Combat Training (BCT) Class 60-17 in the 1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery, 434th Field Artillery Brigade, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. As you already know, your Warrior has safely arrived, in-processed and has already begun their 9 week journey towards becoming a Soldier.

ABOUT THE UNIT

As a member of Bravo Battery, your Soldier is in the good hands of our Battery Cadre. These hard working Noncommissioned Officers and Commissioned Officers make up the most dedicated and professional team in the United States Army. We serve as coaches, teachers, mentors and leaders, whose mission is more than just making sure your Soldier graduates from BCT. Our goal is to provide our Army with well trained, motivated and disciplined Soldiers, who respond to leadership, are focused on teamwork and promote the Warrior Ethos and the Army Values; who demonstrate a winning attitude and are mentally, physically and emotionally prepared for the rigors of combat in order to fight and win on the modern battlefield. We accomplish this mission by providing your Soldier with the most realistic, relevant and best training available. As you will hear first-hand from your Soldier, this training will be some of the most strenuous and demanding activities they have ever been through. BCT is not easy, nor should it be. However, every task your Soldier performs will help develop the discipline, self-confidence and knowledge necessary to be a successful Soldier in today's Army.

YOUR SOLDIER'S WELL-BEING

We consider our Soldiers to be our nation's most precious resource and a key asset of the Army's future. Because of this, your Soldier's development only begins with training. What makes the Army a unique organization and culture is that taking care of Soldiers and their families is our foremost priority. Please know that, like you, we are genuinely concerned about your Soldier's overall health and well-being and we have a number of resources available to alleviate and mitigate any financial, medical, or personal issues.

We in the Battery also know that this is not only your Soldier's first Army experience; it may be yours as well. With that being said, we would also like to welcome you to the Army family. Like your family's values, our seven inherent Army values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage are rooted deep in tradition and sewn into the very soul of every American Soldier. Your Soldier is currently learning about these values while living by the American Soldier's Creed.

REMAINING IN CONTACT WITH YOUR SOLDIER

At times, this experience will seem to be very difficult for your Soldier. For many of our younger Soldiers, this is their first time away from everything they know, to include home, family and friends. Naturally, your Soldier misses you as much as you miss them. Therefore, I encourage you to write at every opportunity possible. Simply put, **Soldiers love getting mail**. The importance and value of mail to your Soldier is immeasurable during this phase of their career. We ask that you use this venue to encourage your Soldier during their time here, which will greatly increase morale of your Soldier. We ask for your assistance in this matter and your help is greatly appreciated. Below is the correct mailing address for mail being sent to your Soldier. Please **DO NOT** deviate from this example, or mail will be delayed.

(Your Soldier's Rank, Last Name, First Name)
1-31ST FA BN, BRAVO BATTERY, (**YOUR SOLDIER'S PLT #**)
5955 ROTHWELL STREET
FORT SILL, OK 73503

Be advised that there are certain guidelines that must be followed when sending mail:

1. **No alcohol or products containing alcohol, tobacco or narcotics**
2. **No weapons or any item that could be viewed as a weapon**
3. **No electronic devices of any kind, including Nooks, Kindles, iPods, iPads, etc.**
4. **No pornographic material**
5. **No books or magazines**
6. **No food items, this includes candies or homemade goods.**
7. **No makeup kits or scented products**

Moreover, I want to assure you that we do not hold mail from your Soldier. We issue mail daily and your Soldier will have plenty of opportunity to send mail home. If mail is not received, that means that there is an issue with the mailing address. Therefore, I cannot stress hard enough the importance of strict adherence to the mailing address given above.

TELEPHONING HOME

By now you have already received a phone call from your Soldier stating that they have arrived to our battery. During the duration of Basic Combat Training, your Soldier will not have their mobile phone. Telephone usage is a **privilege** that Soldiers earn based on their performance and conduct. Therefore, we urge your patience and ask that you write to your Soldier as much and as often as possible.

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

Please visit us on our Battery Facebook page at "Bravo Battery, 1-31 FA BCT". We will be posting pictures during many of the events that your Soldier will be training on.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Should an emergency arise at home, the **best and most expedient way** to reach your Soldier is to utilize the **American Red Cross**. Your local Red Cross office will contact the Lawton Red Cross field office, who in turn will contact the unit. In the case of extremely unfortunate circumstances, such as serious injury or death affecting the Soldier's immediate family, an emergency leave of absence may be granted.

GRADUATION

Our Soldiers are tentatively scheduled to graduate on Friday, 6th of Oct, 2017 at 10 A.M. (LOCAL TIME). I will send you more detailed information in the upcoming weeks, explaining the events you can share with your Soldier prior to graduation, along with a map of the area for your convenience. We understand that by attending graduation events you are making great sacrifices with your time and money that require adequate planning. Your patience is much appreciated as we work to get the accurate graduation information to you as soon as possible.

BATTERY CONTACT INFORMATION

Please feel free to contact the Battery through our Battery Facebook page if there are any issues, concerns or questions.

Kindest regards,

RICHARD MILLER
Captain, FA
Commanding